

Washington State Institute for Public Policy

Benefit-Cost Results

The WSIPP benefit-cost analysis examines, on an apples-to-apples basis, the monetary value of programs or policies to determine whether the benefits from the program exceed its costs. WSIPP's research approach to identifying evidence-based programs and policies has three main steps. First, we determine "what works" (and what does not work) to improve outcomes using a statistical technique called meta-analysis. Second, we calculate whether the benefits of a program exceed its costs. Third, we estimate the risk of investing in a program by testing the sensitivity of our results. For more detail on our methods, see our [technical documentation](#).

Current estimates replace old estimates. Numbers will change over time as a result of model inputs and monetization methods.

Public Health & Prevention

Program name	Date of last literature review	Total benefits	Taxpayer benefits	Non-taxpayer benefits	Costs	Benefits minus costs (net present value)	Benefit to cost ratio	Chance benefits will exceed costs
School-based								
Mentoring for students: school-based (taxpayer costs only)	Jun. 2014	\$34,137	\$9,538	\$24,599	(\$1,146)	\$32,991	\$29.82	79 %
Mentoring for students: school-based (with volunteer costs)	Jun. 2014	\$33,515	\$9,445	\$24,069	(\$1,786)	\$31,729	\$18.77	78 %
Elementary school-based social development programs	Dec. 2014	\$13,946	\$3,952	\$9,994	(\$236)	\$13,710	\$59.31	77 %
Seattle Social Development Project	Apr. 2012	\$15,238	\$4,591	\$10,647	(\$3,081)	\$12,157	\$4.94	68 %
Good Behavior Game	Apr. 2012	\$9,081	\$2,788	\$6,294	(\$158)	\$8,924	\$57.53	93 %
Caring School Community (formerly Child Development Project)	Jun. 2014	\$8,611	\$2,171	\$6,440	(\$1,218)	\$7,393	\$7.06	62 %
School-based tobacco prevention programs	Dec. 2014	\$4,012	\$986	\$3,026	(\$62)	\$3,950	\$64.64	99 %
Project EX	Dec. 2014	\$3,511	\$819	\$2,692	(\$58)	\$3,452	\$60.13	86 %
Minnesota Smoking Prevention Program	Dec. 2014	\$2,712	\$652	\$2,061	(\$32)	\$2,681	\$86.00	94 %
All Stars	Dec. 2014	\$2,389	\$735	\$1,654	(\$101)	\$2,288	\$23.59	99 %
Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.)	Dec. 2014	\$1,941	\$334	\$1,607	(\$53)	\$1,888	\$36.44	84 %
Behavioral Monitoring and Reinforcement Program (BMRP)	Apr. 2012	\$3,004	\$967	\$2,037	(\$1,300)	\$1,705	\$2.31	59 %
SPORT	Jun. 2014	\$1,333	\$325	\$1,008	(\$38)	\$1,294	\$34.70	74 %
Life Skills Training	Jun. 2014	\$1,125	\$246	\$879	(\$97)	\$1,028	\$11.58	84 %
American Indian adolescent substance abuse prevention programs	Dec. 2014	\$787	\$265	\$522	(\$55)	\$733	\$14.45	78 %
keepin' it REAL	Jun. 2014	\$646	\$201	\$445	(\$48)	\$598	\$13.51	72 %
ATHENA (Athletes Targeting Healthy Exercise and Nutrition Alternatives)	Dec. 2014	\$503	\$127	\$376	(\$37)	\$466	\$13.53	57 %
Too Good for Drugs	Dec. 2014	\$498	\$158	\$341	(\$52)	\$446	\$9.56	97 %
Lions Quest Skills for Adolescence	Jun. 2014	\$477	\$96	\$381	(\$94)	\$383	\$5.06	79 %
Project ALERT	Jul. 2014	\$504	\$176	\$329	(\$147)	\$357	\$3.43	77 %
Project Towards No Drug Abuse (TND)	Jun. 2014	\$182	\$46	\$136	(\$64)	\$118	\$2.86	53 %
Promoting Alternative Thinking Strategies (PATHS)	Apr. 2012	\$10	\$18	(\$8)	(\$117)	(\$107)	\$0.09	8 %
Youth advocacy/empowerment programs for tobacco prevention	Dec. 2014	(\$155)	(\$35)	(\$120)	(\$22)	(\$178)	(\$6.92)	33 %
Project SUCCESS	Aug. 2014	(\$178)	(\$19)	(\$159)	(\$155)	(\$333)	(\$1.15)	42 %
InShape	Jun. 2014	(\$395)	(\$119)	(\$276)	(\$15)	(\$410)	(\$26.60)	46 %
Reconnecting Youth	Dec. 2014	(\$6,147)	(\$1,385)	(\$4,762)	(\$750)	(\$6,897)	(\$8.21)	0 %
Home- or Family-based								
Nurse Family Partnership for low-income families	Apr. 2012	\$27,174	\$9,955	\$17,219	(\$9,842)	\$17,332	\$2.77	71 %
Family-based tobacco and substance use prevention	Dec. 2014	\$5,407	\$1,357	\$4,050	(\$178)	\$5,229	\$30.46	93 %
Strengthening Families for Parents and Youth 10-14	Apr. 2012	\$3,850	\$981	\$2,869	(\$1,098)	\$2,751	\$3.51	66 %
Computer-based substance use prevention programs	Dec. 2014	\$1,390	\$349	\$1,041	(\$69)	\$1,321	\$20.26	68 %

Program name	Date of last literature review	Total benefits	Taxpayer benefits	Non-taxpayer benefits	Costs	Benefits minus costs (net present value)	Benefit to cost ratio	Chance benefits will exceed costs
Guiding Good Choices (formerly Preparing for the Drug Free Years)	Jun. 2014	\$1,419	\$526	\$893	(\$654)	\$765	\$2.17	61 %
Parents as Teachers	Apr. 2012	\$2,875	\$988	\$1,887	(\$2,684)	\$191	\$1.07	50 %
Other home visiting programs for at-risk mothers and children	Apr. 2012	\$5,533	\$3,333	\$2,201	(\$5,746)	(\$212)	\$0.96	47 %
Family Check-Up (also known as Positive Family Support)	Jun. 2014	\$68	\$51	\$18	(\$323)	(\$255)	\$0.21	47 %
Healthy Families America	Apr. 2012	\$2,394	\$2,092	\$302	(\$4,698)	(\$2,305)	\$0.51	46 %
Parent Child Home Program	Apr. 2012	\$1,210	\$1,394	(\$184)	(\$5,668)	(\$4,458)	\$0.21	33 %
Community-based								
Computer-based programs for smoking cessation	Dec. 2014	\$30,799	\$5,650	\$25,149	(\$39)	\$30,760	\$782.07	100 %
Text messaging programs for smoking cessation	Dec. 2014	\$18,069	\$3,208	\$14,861	(\$51)	\$18,018	\$351.58	100 %
Quantum Opportunities Program	Apr. 2012	\$42,802	\$17,932	\$24,870	(\$26,432)	\$16,370	\$1.64	63 %
Mentoring for students: community-based (taxpayer costs only)	Jun. 2014	\$11,626	\$3,493	\$8,133	(\$1,262)	\$10,364	\$9.24	67 %
Mentoring for students: community-based (with volunteer costs)	Jun. 2014	\$10,694	\$3,513	\$7,181	(\$3,193)	\$7,501	\$3.36	60 %
Project STAR	Jul. 2014	\$4,261	\$1,049	\$3,212	(\$499)	\$3,761	\$8.55	97 %
Communities That Care	Apr. 2012	\$1,826	\$561	\$1,265	(\$573)	\$1,253	\$3.25	85 %
Project Northland	Jun. 2014	\$692	\$187	\$505	(\$185)	\$507	\$3.74	73 %
Children's Aid Society--Carrera	Apr. 2012	\$7,565	\$4,059	\$3,507	(\$14,474)	(\$6,909)	\$0.52	38 %
CASASTART	Apr. 2012	(\$3,742)	\$212	(\$3,953)	(\$6,937)	(\$10,679)	(\$0.54)	12 %
Fast Track prevention program	Apr. 2012	(\$24,400)	\$1,273	(\$25,673)	(\$60,013)	(\$84,412)	(\$0.41)	0 %
Population-level policies								
Access to tobacco quitlines	Dec. 2014	\$33,436	\$2,017	\$31,419	(\$211)	\$33,225	\$158.44	98 %
More intensive tobacco quitlines (compared to less intensive quitlines)	Dec. 2014	\$9,702	\$1,390	\$8,312	(\$128)	\$9,574	\$75.68	100 %
Anti-smoking media campaign, youth effect	Dec. 2014	\$3,398	\$813	\$2,585	(\$27)	\$3,371	\$125.82	99 %
Enforcement of tobacco age-of-sale laws	Dec. 2014	\$2,293	\$697	\$1,596	(\$6)	\$2,288	\$399.16	100 %
Anti-smoking media campaigns, adult effect	Dec. 2014	\$1,899	\$530	\$1,369	(\$35)	\$1,865	\$55.38	89 %
Triple P Positive Parenting Program (System)	Apr. 2012	\$469	\$154	\$315	(\$147)	\$322	\$3.22	99 %

Other Public Health & Prevention topics reviewed:

Program name	Date of last literature review	Notes
10% increase in cigarette tax (effect on adults)	Dec. 2014	Click for meta-analytic results
10% increase in cigarette tax (effect on youth)	Dec. 2014	Click for meta-analytic results
Adolescent Sibling Pregnancy Prevention	Apr. 2012	Click for meta-analytic results
Child FIRST	Jul. 2014	Click for meta-analytic results
Enforcement of youth tobacco possession laws	Dec. 2014	Click for meta-analytic results
Oral health: Community water fluoridation	Oct. 2014	Click for meta-analytic results
Postponing Sexual Involvement (c)	Apr. 2012	Click for meta-analytic results
School programs for healthy eating & physical activity to prevent obesity	Apr. 2012	Click for meta-analytic results
School programs for healthy eating to prevent obesity	Apr. 2012	Click for meta-analytic results
School programs for physical activity to prevent obesity	Apr. 2012	Click for meta-analytic results
School-based service learning	Apr. 2012	Click for meta-analytic results
School-based sexual education	Apr. 2012	Click for meta-analytic results
Teen Outreach Program	Apr. 2012	Click for meta-analytic results
4Results Mentoring	Jun. 2013	No rigorous evaluation measuring outcome of interest.
Aban Aya Youth Project	Dec. 2014	No rigorous evaluation measuring outcome of interest.
Active Parenting of Teens: Families in Action	Dec. 2014	No rigorous evaluation measuring outcome of interest.
BrainTrain4Kids	Dec. 2014	No rigorous evaluation measuring outcome of interest.
Celebrating Families	Dec. 2014	No rigorous evaluation measuring outcome of interest.
Coping and Support Training	Jun. 2013	No rigorous evaluation measuring outcome of interest.
Coping Power Program	Dec. 2014	No rigorous evaluation measuring outcome of interest.
DARE to be You	Dec. 2014	No rigorous evaluation measuring outcome of interest.
Familias Unidas	Dec. 2014	No rigorous evaluation measuring outcome of interest.
Friday Night Live	Dec. 2014	No rigorous evaluation measuring outcome of interest.
Hip-hop 2 prevent substance abuse and HIV	Dec. 2014	No rigorous evaluation measuring outcome of interest.
Kaleidoscope Play and Learn	Jun. 2013	No rigorous evaluation measuring outcome of interest.
Lead and Seed	Dec. 2014	No rigorous evaluation measuring outcome of interest.
Media Detective	Dec. 2014	No rigorous evaluation measuring outcome of interest.
Media Ready	Dec. 2014	No rigorous evaluation measuring outcome of interest.
Mobile phone "apps" for smoking cessation	Dec. 2014	No rigorous evaluation measuring outcome of interest.
Native FACETS	Dec. 2014	No rigorous evaluation measuring outcome of interest.
Not on Tobacco	Dec. 2014	No rigorous evaluation measuring outcome of interest.
PALS: Prevention through Alternative Learning Styles	Dec. 2014	No rigorous evaluation measuring outcome of interest.
Project MAGIC	Dec. 2014	No rigorous evaluation measuring outcome of interest.
Project Venture	Jun. 2014	No rigorous evaluation measuring outcome of interest.
Reality Tour	Dec. 2014	No rigorous evaluation measuring outcome of interest.
Red Cliff Wellness School Curriculum	Jun. 2014	No rigorous evaluation measuring outcome of interest.
Refuse, Remove, Reasons (RRR) High School Education Program	Dec. 2014	No rigorous evaluation measuring outcome of interest.
Rock in Prevention, Rock PLUS	Dec. 2014	No rigorous evaluation measuring outcome of interest.
Sembrando Salud	Dec. 2014	No rigorous evaluation measuring outcome of interest.
SMART Leaders	Dec. 2014	No rigorous evaluation measuring outcome of interest.
Stay SMART	Dec. 2014	No rigorous evaluation measuring outcome of interest.
Storytelling for Empowerment	Dec. 2014	No rigorous evaluation measuring outcome of interest.
Strengthening Multi-Ethnic Families and Communities	Jan. 2013	No rigorous evaluation measuring outcome of interest.
TAP-Helping Teens Stop Using Tobacco	Dec. 2014	No rigorous evaluation measuring outcome of interest.
Teens Against Tobacco Use (TATU)	Dec. 2014	No rigorous evaluation measuring outcome of interest.
TEG-Intervening with Teen Tobacco Users	Dec. 2014	No rigorous evaluation measuring outcome of interest.
Tobacco and Alcohol Prevention Program	Dec. 2014	No rigorous evaluation measuring outcome of interest.

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Washington State Institute for Public Policy

The Washington State Legislature created the Washington State Institute for Public Policy in 1983. A Board of Directors-representing the legislature, the governor, and public universities-governs WSIPP and guides the development of all activities. WSIPP's mission is to carry out practical research, at legislative direction, on issues of importance to Washington State.